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RE: Comments on FCC Public Notice DA10-1045

CC Docket No. 02-6 GN Docket No. 09-51

Smoky Hill Education Service Center is an education agency serving over 60 rural and suburban school districts in central Kansas. For the past 20 years, the organization has provided professional development, training, and consulting services to school districts.

The E-rate program has provided critical assistance to K-12 schools in our service area. During the difficult economic times in the state of Kansas where school funding has been cut numerous times in the last year, E-rate funds have become even more important. Our member districts have utilized E-rate funding to assist in their endeavors to provide quality education to Kansas students.

Many Smoky Hill districts supplement their web hosting expenses with E-rate funding. Students and their parents expect schools to provide them with timely information, and more than ever before, this information is disseminated via the internet. Parents, students, and teachers rely on having access to school information around the clock to keep informed about important issues, weather-related cancellations, and emergency notifications.

As a result of recent reductions in state funding, Kansas school districts are reducing staff to balance their budgets. With fewer staff members to answer phones, send written messages, and publish newsletters, it is even more important for schools to have the ability to get vast amounts of information to large numbers of people quickly and easily. This is accomplished through district web sites. Eliminating E-rate funding for web hosting will only further hinder financially struggling districts and their overworked staffs. Research has shown that high student achievement requires strong parental involvement, and access to up-to-date information fosters active parents and community members.

The FCC's efforts to provide resources to districts so all students have access to important educational opportunities is commendable. I request that you consider the effects of this proposed change and retain web hosting as a Priority 1 funded service. Web hosting service is not an extravagance. In the 21st Century when many people are turning to the web as their first source of information, it is a necessity.

Sincerely, Chris Moddelmog Director of Technology Services Smoky Hill Education Service Center 605 E. Crawford ST Salina, KS 67401